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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12            MARIA LAZOS, *THE ESTATE OF*  
13            *THOMAS BARRERA, By and Through its*  
14            *Successor in Interest, MARIA LAZOS*         ) Case No. CV08-02987-RGK (SHx)  
15            Plaintiff,    ) (consolidated w/ CV 08-05153 RGK )  
16            vs.    )  
17            CITY OF OXNARD; OXNARD POLICE         )  
18            DEPARTMENT; POLICE CHIEF JOHN         )  
19            CROMBACH; ANDREW SALINA, and         )  
20            DOES 1-10                                         )  
21            Defendants.                                      )  
22            \_\_\_\_\_    )  
23            AND CONSOLIDATED ACTION                    )  
24  
25

TO THE COURT AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

23 Plaintiffs, MARIA LAZOS, TOMAS BARRERA and *THE ESTATE OF THOMAS*  
24 *BARRERA BY AND THROUGH ITS SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST MARIA LAZOS and*  
25 *TOMAS BARRERA* do hereby submit their Memorandum of Fact and Law as follows:

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1                   I.  
2**SUMMARY OF PLAINTIFFS CONTENTIONS OF FACT**

3                   It is Plaintiff's contention that the following acts will be supported by the  
4 evidence:

5                   On Oct 03, 2007, Sgt. Andrew Salinas was driving his assigned black and white  
6 police vehicle. He was driving eastbound of 5<sup>th</sup> street, west of "G" street.  
7                   Sgt. Salinas saw a bike laying on the sidewalk, next to a truck with the passenger door  
8 open. After parking his police vehicle, SALINAS observed the door to be closed. The  
9 decedent, Thomas Barrera, Jr. (Hereinafter "Tommy") was in the area for reasons  
10 unknown. Without identifying himself or stopping to ascertain the circumstances that  
11 brought Tommy to that specific area, Salinas began chasing after Tommy. In response,  
12 Tommy started running. Salinas continued to chase him, and continued to fail to identify  
13 himself. Tommy ran westbound on 5<sup>th</sup> street, first on sidewalk then ran in the middle of  
14 the street.

15                  After Tommy went onto the street, Plaintiffs believe that Tommy started taking  
16 items from his pocket and discarding them on the street. This included a broken knife  
17 that Tommy paused to throw on the ground. It was very dark. Again, Salinas never  
18 identified himself, his only verbal action was to scream at Tommy in the dark to "get  
19 down on the Ground".

20                  After pausing, Tommy turned around to begin running again. The next few  
21 seconds are somewhat unclear, but the following facts have been determined: All  
22 witnesses heard Tommy yell at Salinas "Don't Shoot me!" or "Don't shoot me Man!".  
23 This plea was followed seconds later but the sounds of shooting. Some of the witnesses  
24 further testify, which comports with the deposition testimony of Salinas himself, that  
25 *after* being shot in the back, Tommy crawled on the ground and wailed his plea not to be  
26 shot again. As Salinas testified, the reaction to said plea was a "failure drill".

27                  In his Deposition, Sgt. Salinas stated that the last shot was an intentional shot  
28 aimed at Salinas's head, a technique he called a "failure drill". A failure drill is a

1 technique taught by the Oxnard Police Department. It is to be used **when a suspect is**  
 2 **coming at an officer creating a situation for the Officer of high risk of bodily harm**  
 3 or death. The “failure drill” is supposed to be one shot to the head. This shot is  
 4 intended to kill the “suspect” when the Officer or another is in danger of being severely  
 5 wounded or killed. Furthermore, Salinas admitted that Tommy no longer posed a danger  
 6 after the first two shots. In fact, Salinas stated that Tommy “crumbled” to the ground  
 7 immediately although there is some evidence that Tommy continued to beg for his life  
 8 while **crawling** away from Salinas. Also, Salinas did not attempt two shots at Tommy’s  
 9 body and one shot to Tommy’s head. He shot him in the back either two or three times,  
 10 then took another measured shot **at the back of Tommy’s head.**

11       It is extremely clear that Tommy’s back was to Salinas at the time he was shot. It  
 12 is also very clear that Tommy was **not** in the process of turning back around after  
 13 threatening Salinas with a knife as stated by Defendants.

14       Defendants are attempting to maintain that when Salinas turned back around (to  
 15 resume the chase), Tommy, allegedly had a knife in his hand. Allegedly, Tommy held  
 16 the knife in his right hand with the blade exposed and swung the knife out in direction  
 17 of Sgt. Salinas as if he was attempting to strike Salinas with knife.

18       In the police report, it states that it was not until **after** Tommy tried to strike him  
 19 with the knife, that Salinas unholstered his gun and shot Tommy to defend himself from  
 20 the “assault”. After the first three shots, and **AFTER** Tommy stumbled and fell unto his  
 21 knees Salinas **waited one full second or three quarters of a second** and discharged his  
 22 weapon **again** in what Salinas calls a “failure drill”. A “failure drill” talks about a  
 23 shot to the head of the victim if the police officer feels his life is in danger. Here, Tommy  
 24 Barrera had been shot with injuries to one of his buttocks and another shot lodged in  
 25 Tommy’s spine (mid back). Tommy was stumbling and falling to his knees when  
 26 Salinas took his last shot (the one he named the “failure drill”). The last shot destroyed  
 27 Tommy’s heart and part of his lung. Following the last shot (“failure drill”), Tommy  
 28 was handcuffed and “taken into custody”. Tommy died as result of wounds.

1       The physical evidence and a reenactment recently performed by Plaintiffs' experts  
 2 clearly support Plaintiffs' position. Furthermore, there is no physical way the incident  
 3 occurred as maintained by Defendants. Officer Salinas testified that he could "see" the  
 4 knife in Tommy's hand when he fell, and that the knife "spurted" approximately thirty-  
 5 five feet **uphill** after Tommy fell down. This is a physical impossibility.  
 6 Furthermore, the first two officers who responded to the scene of the incident stated in  
 7 their official report that when they arrived at the scene, Salinas was breathing heavily as  
 8 if he had just exerted himself. Purnell asked Salinas what happened. Salinas replied: "he  
 9 turned on me. I saw something in his hand. I THINK it was a knife. Then he turned on  
 10 me." When questioned later, Purnell reiterated that all Salinas said was "he turned on  
 11 me" to explain the shooting. The Officers heard there were cartridge casings and a  
 12 wrench set at scene, **but the Officers did not personally observe them at the scene.**

13       The evidence was definitively manipulated if not "planted" by Salinas and/or  
 14 other officers at the scene. If other officers were involved, the would not be the first time  
 15 that Salinas either directly shot a civilian or was involved in a shooting, only to be  
 16 protected and **promoted** by his fellow officers and Oxnard Police Department as a whole.

17       Salinas produced records of his shooting qualifications in discovery. It appears  
 18 from the records produced, that he did not qualify **since 2002**.

19       Oxnard Police policy allows for the use of deadly force "to effect the arrest or  
 20 prevent the escape of suspected felon when the officer has probable cause to believe that  
 21 the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious bodily injury to officers or to  
 22 others. Officer should give verbal warning before using deadly force"

23       The written policies and procedures also dictate that an "Officer may use deadly  
 24 force to protect himself or others from what he/she reasonably believe would be an  
 25 imminent threat or death or serious bodily injury". However, an Officer is only supposed  
 26 to use that amount of force reasonable under circumstances and **respond to changing**  
 27 **circumstances** that may impact his/her decision."

28       Salinas cannot state with any realistic credence that breaking and entering into a

1 truck constituted a crime that places others in risk of bodily harm and/or death. As stated  
2 above, Salinas testified he was not panicked at the time of the shots, and was thinking  
3 clearly. The last measured shot was intentional. This is not a reasonable response to a  
4 man, shot and “crumpling” to the ground.

5 The known reaction of Defendants to all of the Shootings by Salinas? The fact that  
6 there were several shooting by the same officer should suffice as *prima facie* evidence of  
7 propensity towards violence and inability to control ones actions. Salinas had left several  
8 dead bodies in his wake. He has been involved in a minimum of **four** other shootings as  
9 an Oxnard Police Officer, in addition to a plethora of additional violent acts.

10 Despite knowledge of this fact, City of Oxnard, Oxnard Police Department and  
11 Chief John Crombach not only hired Salinas despite actual and constructive knowledge of  
12 his violent tendencies, they actually **promoted** him when these tendencies became realities  
13 in the form of the shooting of civilians. Salinas became the virtual “poster boy” for  
14 Oxnard Police Department and the City of Oxnard. He was nominated as Officer of the  
15 Year, promoted, given “choice” assignment, made head of several state and government  
16 run programs. The Defendants’ reaction to Tommy’s shooting was to place Salinas back  
17 on the streets where he has consistently proven himself as a danger to innocent civilians.

18 The admitted response to Salinas’ known propensity to shoot first ask later is to  
19 promote him, let him act as spokesperson for City of Oxnard, give him money and to let  
20 him run City of Oxnard and Oxnard Police Department programs funded and designed to  
21 help the citizens of Oxnard, and to nominate him as Officer of the Year. In fact, Plaintiffs  
22 have evidence that the response to a police shooting, without fail, is promote the police  
23 officer involved. This is virtually *prima facie* Monell Liability.

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III

## **SUMMARY OF PLAINTIFFS' CONTENTION OF THE LAW**

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS**

The following Causes of Action have been plead:

1. Deprivation of civil rights in violation of 42 U.S.C. §1983 by all defendants;
  2. Wrongful death as to all defendants (except John Crombach by Tomas Barrera);
  3. Violation of California Civil Code §§43,51, 51.7, and 52.1 as to all defendants except John Crombach (By Tomas Barrera);
    4. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress as to all defendants;
    5. Negligence as to all defendants; and
    6. Negligent employment as to all defendants except Andrew Salinas.

III.

## **SUMMARY OF THE LAW**

In Ryder v. City of Topeka (1987) 814 F.2d 1412; the Court held: "While it is not always clear just when minimal police interference becomes a seizure . . . there can be no question that apprehension by the use of deadly force is a seizure subject to the reasonableness requirement of the Fourth Amendment....It is plain that reasonableness depends on not only when a seizure is made, but also how it is carried out." Id. at 8 (citing United States v. Ortiz, 422 U.S. 891,895, 45 L. Ed. 2d 623, 95 S. Ct. 2585 (1975); Garcia v. Miera, J.D.( 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit 1987) 817 F.2d 650; 1987 U.S. App. LEXIS 5460 "Rochin . . . must stand for the proposition that, quite apart from any 'specific' of the Bill of Rights, application of undue force by law enforcement officers deprives a suspect of liberty without due process of law. If Rochin suffered such a violation of his constitutional rights by the police as to be entitled to invalidation of a conviction obtained as a consequence, he also was the victim of a violation sufficient to sustain an action under the Civil Rights Act."

1       The Court in the landmark case of Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1, 28-29, 20 L. Ed. 2d  
 2 889, 88 S. Ct. 1868 (1968) state: "We note that the use of deadly force does not occur only  
 3 when the suspect actually dies". See Pruitt v. City of Montgomery, 771 F.2d 1475, 1479  
 4 (11th Cir. 1985); Acoff v. Abston, 762 F.2d 1543 (11th Cir. 1985). Several courts of  
 5 appeals have adopted the Model Penal Code definition of deadly force. Pruitt, 771 F.2d at  
 6 1479 n.10; Mattis v. Schnarr, 547 F.2d 1007, 1009 n.2 (8th Cir. 1976) (en banc), vacated  
 7 as moot sub nom. Ashcroft v. Mattis, 431 U.S. 171, 52 L. Ed. 2d 219, 97 S. Ct. 1739  
 8 (1972). The Model Penal Code defines "deadly force" as: force that the actor uses with the  
 9 purpose of causing or that he knows to create a substantial risk of causing death or serious  
 10 bodily harm. Purposely firing a firearm in the direction of another person or at a vehicle in  
 11 which another person is believed to be constitutes deadly force. Model Penal Code @  
 12 3.11(2) (1985); see also Comment, Deadly Force to Arrest: Triggering Constitutional  
 13 Review, 11 Harv. C.R.-C.L. L. Rev. 361, 363 (1976) (describing deadly force as "such  
 14 force as under normal circumstances poses a high risk of death or serious injury to its  
 15 human target, regardless of whether or not death, serious injury or any harm actually  
 16 results in a given case"). See, e.g., American Law Institute, Model Penal Code @  
 17 2.02(2)(c) (1985) ("A person acts recklessly with respect to a material element of an  
 18 offense when he consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the  
 19 material element exists or will result from his conduct."

20       In Acoff, the Eleventh Circuit held that "the officer must give some warning  
 21 regarding the possible use of deadly force." Garner refers only to "some warning." 471  
 22 U.S. at 11. We decline to decide what warning would be sufficient a police officer in a  
 23 dangerous and unreasonable situation. Therefore, we conclude that whether a particular  
 24 seizure is reasonable is dependent on the "totality of the circumstances," id. at 9, and **not**  
 25 **simply on whether the suspect was actually armed.** See Carter v. City of Chattanooga,  
 26 803 F.2d 217 (6th Cir.1986).

27       In Monroe v. Pape (1961) 365 U.S. 167 [5 L.Ed.2d 492, 81 S.Ct. 473], the court  
 28 held that a specific intent to deprive a person of a federal right is not required in actions

1 under section 1983. Instead section 1983 "should be read against the background of tort  
 2 liability that makes a man responsible for the natural consequences of his actions."  
 3 (Monroe at p. 187 [5 L.Ed.2d at p. 505].)

4 An officer may respond with deadly force to the attenuated threat presented by a  
 5 fleeing suspect only if two conditions are met. First, there must be reasonable cause to  
 6 believe that the suspect is dangerous and will escape to a location where he will be able to  
 7 cause physical harm to others. And, second, the officers **must** identify themselves and give  
 8 the suspect a chance to surrender, unless giving the warning would itself risk serious harm  
 9 to the officers or to members of the public, or materially increase the likelihood of escape.  
 10 "Of course, a law enforcement officer must justify every use of deadly force as necessary  
 11 and proper; **he may not keep pulling the trigger, regardless of changed circumstances.**  
 12 We confronted precisely this situation in Hopkins v. Andaya, 958 F.2d 881, 887 (9th Cir.  
 13 1992), where the officer kept shooting **after the suspect ceased being dangerous**. We  
 14 rejected the officer's claim of qualified immunity, holding that the justification for the use  
 15 of deadly force does not continue indefinitely. If circumstances change, and the danger  
 16 abates, it will be unreasonable to continue using deadly force. (Emphasis added).

17 In *Monroe v. Pape* (1961) 365 U.S. 167 [5 L.Ed.2d 492, 81 S.Ct. 473], the court  
 18 held that a specific intent to deprive a person of a federal right is not required in actions  
 19 under section 1983 , Instead, section 1983 "should be read against the background of tort  
 20 liability that makes a man responsible for the natural consequences of his actions." (

21 Monroe at p. 187 [5 L.Ed.2d at p. 505].)

22 *Irwin v. City of Hemet* (1994) 22 Cal. App. 4th 507; stated the following in  
 23 holding a county accountable for the suicide of a prisoner:

24 "Municipalities are among those persons to whom section 1983 applies. (*Monell v.*  
 25 *New York City Dept. of Social Services*, *supra*, 436 U.S. at p. 690 [56 L.Ed.2d at p. 635,  
 26 98 S.Ct. at p. 2035].) However, section 1983 does not "impose liability vicariously on  
 27 governing bodies solely on the basis of the existence of an employer-employee  
 28 relationship with a tortfeasor." (436 U.S. at p. 692 [56 L.Ed.2d at p. 636, 98 S.Ct. at p.

1 2036].) Thus, a local government is not liable under section 1983 "for an injury inflicted  
 2 solely by its employees or agents. Instead, it is when execution of a government's policy or  
 3 custom, whether made by its lawmakers or by those whose edicts or acts may fairly be said  
 4 to represent official policy, inflicts the injury that the government as an entity is  
 5 responsible under § 1983." (436 U.S. at p. 694 [56 L.Ed.2d at p. 638, 98 S.Ct. at pp.  
 6 2037-2038].) In short, ". . . a municipality can be found liable under §1983 only where the  
 7 municipality itself causes the constitutional violation at issue." ( *Canton v. Harris* (1989)  
 8 489 U.S. 378, 385 [103 L.Ed.2d 412, 425, 109 S.Ct. 1197, 1203].)

9           *Aaitui v. Grande Properties* (1994) 29 Cal.App.4th 136, discussing liability of  
 10 municipalities for constitutional deprivations, stated: "The cases opening the way for  
 11 possible liability involve direct conduct between the offending public entity and the  
 12 claimed victim: Monell, pregnant employee compelled to take medically unnecessary  
 13 unpaid leaves of absence; Pembaur, police chopped down door to physician's office;  
 14 Canton, woman needing medical care arrested and given no care; Graham, diabetic injured  
 15 during arrest."

16           Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instructions (Civil) No. 9.5 SECTION 1983  
 17 **CLAIM AGAINST LOCAL GOVERNING BODY DEFENDANTS BASED ON**  
 18 **ACT OF FINAL POLICYMAKER—ELEMENTS AND BURDEN OF PROOF**

19           In order to prevail on their § 1983 claim against defendant *City of Oxnard and*  
 20 *City of Oxnard PD* alleging liability based on the act of a final policymaker, the plaintiff  
 21 must prove each of the following elements by a preponderance of the evidence:

- 22 1.       *Chief John Crombach* acted under color of law; 2.the act[s] of *Chief John*  
 23 *Crombach* deprived the plaintiffs of their particular rights under the *United States*  
 24 *Constitution* as explained in later instructions; 3.*Chief John Crombach* had final  
 25 policymaking authority from defendant *City of Oxnard and City of Oxnard PD*  
 26 concerning these act[s]; and 4.when *Chief John Crombach* engaged in these  
 27 act[s], [he] [she] was acting as a final policymaker for defendant *City of Oxnard*  
 28 and *City of Oxnard PD* .

1       As noted in the Introductory Comment to this Chapter, § 1983 liability of a local  
 2 governing body lies only when “action pursuant to official municipal policy of some  
 3 nature caused a constitutional tort,” and not on the basis of *respondeat superior*. *Monell v.*  
 4 *Dep’t of Soc. Servs. of N.Y.*, 436 U.S. 658, 691 (1978)); *see also Bd. of County Comm’rs of*  
 5 *Bryan County, Okla. v. Brown*, 520 U.S. 397, 403 (1997).

6       Such *Monell* liability may attach based on a policy of inaction that demonstrates  
 7 deliberate indifference to constitutional rights: ‘[A] local governmental body may be  
 8 liable if it has a policy of inaction and such inaction amounts to a failure to protect  
 9 constitutional rights.’ *Oviatt v. Pearce*, 954 F.2d 1470, 1474 (9th Cir.1992), citing *City of*  
 10 *Canton v. Harris*, 489 U.S. 378, 388 (1989)). The policy of inaction must be a conscious  
 11 or deliberate choice among various alternatives. *Berry v. Baca*, 379 F.3d 764, 767 (9th  
 12 Cir.2004).

13       In order to impose liability based on a policy of deliberate inaction, the  
 14 “plaintiff must establish: (1) that he possessed a constitutional right of  
 15 which he was deprived; (2) that the municipality had a policy; (3) that this  
 16 policy ‘amounts to deliberate indifference’ to the plaintiff’s constitutional  
 17 right; and (4) that the policy [was] the ‘moving force behind the  
 18 constitutional violation.’” *Oviatt*, 954 F.2d at 1474 (quoting *City of Canton*,  
 19 489 U.S. at 389–91).*Berry*, 379 F.3d at 767.

20 Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instructions (Civil) No. 9.7

21       “In evaluating the nature and quality of the intrusion, [a court] must  
 22 consider ‘the type and amount of force inflicted’” in making an arrest. *Id.* at 651-52  
 23 (quoting *Chew v. Gates*, 27 F.3d 1432, 1440 (9th Cir.1994)).

24       Moreover, as the Ninth Circuit has noted, the Supreme Court did not limit the  
 25 reasonableness inquiry to the factors set forth in *Graham*:

26       Because the test of reasonableness under the Fourth Amendment is not  
 27 capable of precise definition or mechanical application,” the reasonableness  
 28 of a seizure must instead be assessed by carefully considering the objective

1       facts and circumstances that confronted the arresting officers. In some  
 2       cases, for example, the availability of alternative methods of capturing or  
 3       subduing a suspect may be a factor to consider.

4       *Smith v. City of Hemet*, 394 F.3d at 701 (citations omitted).

5           On the other hand, it is not error for a trial court to decline to instruct  
 6       explicitly on the availability of “alternative courses of action” when the instructions as a  
 7       whole “fairly and adequately cover[ed] the issues presented.” *Brewer v. City of Napa*, 210  
 8       F.3d 1093, 1096–97 (9th Cir.2000). If “it is or should be apparent to the officers that the  
 9       individual involved is emotionally disturbed, that is a factor that must be considered in  
 10      determining, under *Graham*, the reasonableness of the force employed.” *Drummond v.*  
 11      *City of Anaheim*, 343 F.3d 1052, 1058 (9th Cir.2003).

12       Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instructions (Civil) No. 9.22

13           As far as the negligence causes of action, most courts summarize the elements of  
 14       actionable negligence as a legal duty of care owed by defendant either to plaintiff or to the  
 15       class of which plaintiff is a member, an act or omission by defendant that is a breach of the  
 16       duty owed to plaintiff, injury and damages to plaintiff, and defendant's breach as an actual  
 17       (or direct) and legal (or proximate) cause of plaintiff's injury and damages; generally, the  
 18       courts consolidate these separate elements of actionable negligence, which the plaintiff has  
 19       the burden of pleading and proving, into either three or four separate elements [see *Hoyem*  
 20       *v. Manhattan Beach City Sch. Dist.* (1978) 22 Cal. 3d 508, 513–514, 150 Cal. Rptr. 1, 585  
 21       P.2d 851; *United States Liab. Ins. Co. v. Haidinger-Hayes, Inc.* (1970) 1 Cal. 3d 586, 594,  
 22       83 Cal. Rptr. 418, 463 P.2d 770; *Koepke v. Loo* (1993) 18 Cal. App. 4th 1444,  
 23       1448–1449, 23 Cal. Rptr. 2d 34].

24           The elements of a prima facie case of intentional infliction of emotional distress  
 25       are the following:

- 26           •     Outrageous conduct by the defendant;  
 27           •     The defendant's intention of causing, or reckless disregard of the probability of  
 28       causing, emotional distress;

- 1       • The plaintiff's suffering severe or extreme emotional distress; and
- 2       • Actual and proximate causation of the emotional distress by the defendant's
- 3       outrageous conduct [Hernandez v. General Adjustment Bureau (1988) 199 Cal.
- 4       App. 3d 999, 1007, 245 Cal. Rptr. 288; Fletcher v. Western Nat'l Life Ins. Co.
- 5       (1970) 10 Cal. App. 3d 376, 394, 89 Cal. Rptr. 78; see Davidson v. City of
- 6       Westminster (1982) 32 Cal. 3d 197, 209, 185 Cal. Rptr. 252, 649 P.2d 894;
- 7       Agarwal v. Johnson (1979) 25 Cal. 3d 932, 946, 160 Cal. Rptr. 141, 603 P.2d 58;
- 8       Cervantez v. J. C. Penney Co. (1979) 24 Cal. 3d 579, 593, 156 Cal. Rptr. 198, 595
- 9       P.2d 975].

10       The elements of a wrongful death cause of action is as follows:

11      A wrongful death action is an action for damages for the death of one person when that  
 12     death is caused by the wrongful act or neglect of another [ Code Civ. Proc. §  
 13     377.60[Deering's]].

14       In the case at bar, there is not dispute that the actions of Salinas caused Tommy  
 15     Barrera's death. In fact, all of the defendants' actions caused Tommy's death. As did  
 16     their failures to act. All of which were wrongful as discussed in more full detail herein.

17       Salinas, who had a known propensity to shoot first and ask questions 2<sup>nd</sup>, was  
 18     promoted in concert with each separate act of violence. One of the cases in which he was  
 19     involved became the landmark case that set the standard as prima facie wrongful police  
 20     interrogation tactics. In that case, Salinas yelled for his partner, Maria Pena, to shoot a  
 21     suspect shouting, "he has my gun"! It is extremely doubtful that the suspect did have  
 22     Salinas' gun. This case, which was certainly not Salinas' first brush with perpetrating  
 23     violence upon unsuspecting civilians, brought his actions into the public eye. Oxnard  
 24     responded by promoting Salinas.

25       It is interesting to note that when Salinas shot Tommy Barrera, Maria Pena was one  
 26     of the officers assigned to the investigative team. Salinas' love of the gruesome and his  
 27     trigger happy methods were ignored yet another time after he shot young Tommy Barrera.  
 28     He was put back into active duty prior to any investigative results were returned. The

1 City once again treated Salinas like a hero rather than a threat to the Civilians on the street.  
 2 It would seem that defendants had a heightened duty to do so as the very reason that they  
 3 were employed by those same civilians was to help procure lawfullness, and protection of  
 4 the innocent. This is not a goal accomplished by allowing an officer who freely shoots  
 5 civilians to forgo shooting qualifications, by giving him control of large sums of money  
 6 designated for governmental programs organized to help make the streets of Oxnard a  
 7 safer place, and by promoting said individual. Any other law enforcement officer would  
 8 garner from such acts the thinly veiled attitude of protect the police before the public,  
 9 stick together at any cost, and the unspoken policy of promoting the law enforcement  
 10 individuals who deign to take the law into their own hands.

11       It is important that the perspective of these same officers who are supposed to  
 12 enforce the law rather than enforce their own violent set of canons and ethics not be  
 13 utilized when applying the “reasonable officer” test. Certainly, no reasonable officer  
 14 with a mind toward enforcing the law applicable to all including themselves, would  
 15 believe that Tommy Barrera posed any type of threat after he was shot in the back twice,  
 16 and was in the process of crawling after falling down. Salinas testified that he took a  
 17 “measured” shot at the back of Tommy Barrera after he fell down and after he clearly did  
 18 not pose any threat to Salinas. Tommy was wailing and pleading with Salinas not to shoot  
 19 him while he slowly crawled on the dirty concrete. In cold blood, Salinas decided to quiet  
 20 this individual on a permanent basis. So Salinas paused. Salinas aimed. And Salinas  
 21 pulled the trigger. And he did so knowing that he would be “supported” by his own  
 22 private gang of police officers. And Salinas was right in that assumption.

#### ANTICIPATED EVIDENTIARY ISSUES

23       All parties have filed several motions in limine. The parties will certainly attempt  
 24 to pursuade the Court on opposing sides as to whether the trial should be  
 25 bifurcated as to individual vs entity liability. This is not an appropriate case for  
 26 bifurcation, for in this action, these issues are so intertwined so as make separation  
 27 of the issues impossible. Furthermore, bifurcation would only serve to confuse the  
 28

1 trier of fact.

2 Plaintiffs have also filed to have a large amount of Defendants evidence  
3 precluded on the grounds that Defendants either consumed or disposed of almost the  
4 entirety of the DNA and biological evidence. In the same vein, Plaintiffs have asked the  
5 Court to preclude any evidence and/or reference to the truck that Defendants attempt to  
6 allege Tommy was breaking into at the time Salinas began chasing him. Counsel for both  
7 plaintiff wrote to defendants requesting access to said truck separately and both within one  
8 to two months of the incident.

9 The owner of the truck testified in his deposition that the truck was released to him  
10 without any other instruction than: it is your truck, you can sell it, scrap it, do whatever  
11 you want with. The owner also tesitified that he contacted Oxnard Police department  
12 when he was contacted by Plaintiffs counsel. Mr. Garcia was advised that he had "no  
13 duty" to make the truck available, and that he can go ahead and dispose of the truck.  
14 Plaintiffs were never notified that the truck was being released to Mr. Garcia, never  
15 contacted about the fact that Mr. Garcia felt afraid for his life if he cooperated with  
16 plaintiffs, etc.

17

18 **IV.**

19 **REQUEST FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

20 Both parties timely requested trial by jury.

21

22 **V.**

23 **ATTORNEY'S FEES**

24 Plaintiffs are making claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983. Their attorneys are  
25 therefore entitled to attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988 if Plaintiffs prevail.

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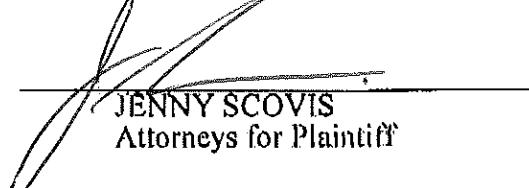
1 VI.  
2  
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ABANDONMENT OF ISSUES

4 There have been no abandonment of issues to date.  
5  
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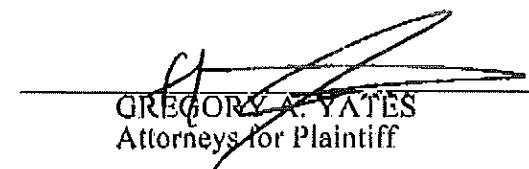
7 Dated: July 01, 2009  
8  
9

LAW OFFICES OF KIM D. SCOVIS

  
JENNY SCOVIS  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

10 Dated: July 10 2009  
11  
12

LAW OFFICES OF GREGORY A. YATES

  
GREGORY A. YATES  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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